

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *ACACIA*.

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(Plate II.)

ACACIA JONESII.

Branchlets beset with minute hairlets, not angular ; leaves on very short petioles ; pinnules in 6 or 5 or rarely less pairs, rather distant, almost sessile, rachis minutely puberulous, bearing a very small depressed glandule between each racheole ; leaflets in 16 or less pairs, quite small, linear- or narrow-elliptical, glabrous, concave, with an acute somewhat recurved apex, on both sides of the same deep green ; flower-headlets simply racemous, their peduncles of somewhat less length during anthesis and like the rachis and flowers nearly or quite glabrous ; bracts very much shorter than the flowers ; calyx about as broad as long, sinuate-five-denticulate, of somewhat less than half the length of the corolla ; fruit much compressed, rather narrow, only slightly curved, glabrous ; seeds placed almost diagonally, occupying most of the breadth of the valves, broadly ovate, rather turgid, deep black, somewhat shining, their lateral areoles large, but of faint demarcation ; funicle very short and almost straight ; strophiole whitish, dimidiate-ovate and somewhat cymbiform, of one-third or hardly half the length of the seed.

Near Barber's Creek, in the Goulburn district, New South Wales ; H. J. Rumsey.

As far as seen, this plant appears to be of exceedingly local distribution, being confined to an area of about an acre. It is a dwarf shrub, 2 to 3 feet high, with a stem-diameter only to $\frac{3}{4}$ of

an inch. Leaf-rachis generally 1-1½ inches long. Pinnules seldom exceeding an inch in length and some shortened to half an inch. Leaflets $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long. Racemes mostly axillary and solitary, usually much longer than the leaves. The rachis of each raceme very flexuous. Flowers in the headlets not very numerous. Fruit 1½-3 inches long, $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{3}$ inch broad, usually devoid of conspicuous marginal sinuosity, the valves of rather thin texture. Seeds mostly about $\frac{1}{6}$ inch long.

This species differs from *A. pubescens* in much shorter indument, less closely approximated and fewer pinnules, somewhat channelled and distinctly pointed leaflets, rachis-glandules present at all the pinnules, broader racheole, larger headlets of flowers on shorter stalklets, glabrous, shorter and seemingly never paniculated racemes; but in carpological characteristics both species are much alike, except that the valves of *A. pubescens* are less coriaceous, narrower, more constricted between the seeds, while the seeds themselves are proportionately narrow and placed longitudinally. From *A. Baileyana*, which was more recently collected by Mr. Garland and Mr. Coker also between the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan Rivers, our new species is distinguished chiefly in pinnules always more numerous to each leaf and much narrower in outline, in leaflets less blunt, with the median line very faint and not near the anterior margin, neither glaucous nor flat, in racemes shorter, with also less elongated stalklets to the headlets, in fruits narrower with less space left between the seeds and the sutures of the valves.

From *A. polybotrya*, recorded now also from Wybong Creek, a tributary of the Hunter River, the new congener is distinguished by leaves much smaller and always glabrous, with neither bluntish nor flat and also less inequilateral leaflets, by fruits of lesser size with seeds placed more longitudinally, and by the funicle enlarging into a very conspicuous strophiole.

From *A. leptoclada* it recedes strikingly in the absence of copious long spreading hairlets on the branchlets and headlets, in leaves more numerously pinnulate and probably also in characteristics of well-developed flowers and fruits, neither of which are as yet

available for comparison, though the plant has further been collected in New England by the late Rev. R. Collie, F.L.S.

From *A. cardiophylla*, which is now also known from the vicinity of the Lachlan River through Mr. J. Duff, *A. Jonesii* deviates in leaflets seemingly never puberulous, evidently longer but proportionately narrower and forming longer pinnules, in calyces neither deeply lobed nor ciliolated, and again the carpologic comparisons in this instance cannot yet be fully carried out. Finally there should still be alluded to a resemblance of *A. decurrens* in its variety *paucijuga* from far inland regions; but the branchlets of our new species are not angular, the petioles are very short, the leaflets pointed, darker green, more concave and less slender, the inflorescence less compound and the fruits smaller. The *A. decurrens* var. *Leichhardtii* (Benth. Fl. Austral. II., 415) has, however, to be raised to specific rank, as it is distinct both from *A. decurrens* and *A. pubescens*. The late Mr. J. O'Shanesy sent it from the environs of Wide Bay, Queensland, but also in an imperfect state; it has received the name of *A. O'Shanesii*.

This dwarf floriferous and pretty *Acacia*, well worthy of a place in gardens, is named in honour of Dr. Sydney Jones, President of the Australasian Medical Congress at Sydney, whose distinguished reputation is only equalled by his munificence in the cause of medical science.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE II.

Acacia Jonesii.

1. Flowering twig.
2. Flower-bud.
3. Expanded flower.
4. Front and back view of stamens.
5. Ovary.
6. Ripe pod.
7. Seed.
8. Leaf-rachis, showing glandules.
9. Portion of a phyllode.

(All enlarged, but to various extent, except 1 and 6.)